

Experimental Fire Weather Threat 4-Panel Graphic

Product Description Document (PDD)

Part I - Mission Connection

- a. **Product Description** – The experimental Fire Weather Threat 4-Panel Graphic displays on the Internet several parameters that are critical for fire weather. In the upper left corner of the graphic is a “Red Flag Risk Index” based on forecast minimum relative humidity (RH) and forecast maximum sustained wind. In the upper right hand corner is the Red Flag Risk Index for the current hour based on the GFE RH and wind observation database. In the lower left corner is the Haines Threat Index based on the forecast high level Haines Index and forecast minimum relative humidity. A second graphic is available based on the Forecast Haines Index and the current relative humidity from the GFE observation database. In the lower right hand panel three graphics reside. The probability of 25% or lower RH, 15% or lower RH, and the current observed RH.

This product will be issued seasonally during the months of June, July, August, and September.

- b. **Product Type** - Experimental
- c. **Purpose** - The purpose of this experimental product is to provide our customers and partners with enhanced detail on significant fire weather hazards for the current day.
- d. **Audience** - The audience is any customer in the WFO fire weather forecast area that would like access to graphically depicted information on meteorological variables that could have significant impacts on fire weather operations.
- e. **Presentation Format** - All displays will occur via a web page interface. Forecasters will create the graphics in GFE and then a script will be run to transfer PNG files to the PDT home page. A 4-panel graphic will be displayed on our fire weather-briefing page.
- f. **Feedback Method** - We will solicit feedback through an existing NWS Feedback form and/or e-mail to the WFO Webmaster. **The period of evaluation will be from June 1, 2006 through July 31st, 2007.**
- g. **Example URL** = <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/pdt/forecast/fwxBriefing.php>
- h. PDD Approved by Vickie Nadolski, NWS Western Region Director

Part II - Technical Description

- a. **Format and Science Basis** - This product is being developed to provide fire weather and other customers enhanced information on hazardous fire weather conditions for the current day. The Red Flag Risk graphics are based on a wind and RH contingency table developed at the WFO. The Haines Threat Index graphics are based on Red Flag criteria for these two elements.
- b. **Availability** - The graphics will be available 24/7. They will be updated at a minimum of once per day with the issuance of each morning Fire Weather Forecast (FWF) issuance. However, they may also be updated at non-routine times as conditions warrant. The hourly portions of the graphic will be updated each hour as a new observation graphic becomes available.
- c. **Additional Information** – Although fire weather customers will benefit from this application, forecast output from this experimental application are made available to all customers.